

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 184

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, LA

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON LAOS, CAMBODIA DEVELOPMENTS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USIA FOR IBS, IEE, IPS

1. AFTER A SILENCE OF SEVERAL DAYS, SOVIET MEDIA HAVE NOW REPORTED THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN LAOS, AND THE REPORTING SETS A LINE WHICH RATIONALIZES LEFTIST GAINS. PRAVDA (MAY 13 AND 14) CARRIES TASS ITEMS FROM VIENTIANE WHICH CLAIM THAT "DEMOCRATIC" ELEMENTS IN LAOS HAD DEMANDED THE RESIGNATION OF DEFENSE MINISTER CHAMPASSAK AND OTHER VIENTIANE OFFICERS ALLEGEDLY CONNECTED WITH THE CIA, FOR FAILING TO FULFILL THE LAOS AGREEMENTS AND SEEKING TO OVERTHROW THE COALITION GOVERNMENT. THE SOLDIERS AND "PROGRESSIVE "

OFFICERS, SAID TASS, ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEOPLE AND THE "PATRIOTIC FORCES" IN OPPOSING THE ATTEMPTS BY

THE "REACTIONARIES" TO DISRUPT PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE COUNTRY. TASS ALSO REPORTS PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESIGNATIONS OF SEVERAL "RIGHTIST" MINISTERS AND REPORTS THAT GENERAL KHAMUAN BUPHA OF THE "PATRIOTIC FRONT" TOOK OVER AS DEFENSE MINISTER. THE ITEMS REPORT COUNTRY-WIDE MEETINGS SUPPORTING THE COALITION AND OPPOSING "ULTRA-RIGHTIST ELEMENTS." COMMENT: THIS TREATMENT ROUGHLY PARALLELS SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF HANOI'S ADVANCES IN SOUTH VIETNAM, IN ALLEGED SUPPORT OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND CAN EASILY BE EXTENDED TO RATIONALIZE THE LEFTIST TAKEOVER WHICH MOSCOW NO DOUBT EXPECTS.

2. PRAVDA (MAY 14) ALSO REPORTS IN A TASS ITEM FROM WASHINGTON THE DISPATCH OF THE "CORAL SEA" TO THE SHORES OF CAMBODIA AND PRESIDENT FORDS'S WARNING ABOUT POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES IF THE U.S. SHIP HELD BY THE CAMBODIANS IS NOT RELEASED. THE PRAVDA ACCOUNT DID NOT REPEAT THE ALLEGATION, CARRIED IN TASS ENGLISH AND IN IZVESTIYA AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS, THE THE CAPTURED SHIP MAY HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.
STOESSEL

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